

October 4, 2007



City of San Antonio

Border Security Regulations Branch
Office of Regulations and Rulings
Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (Mint Annex)
Washington, DC 20229

RE: Docket Number USCBP-2007-0017

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Free Trade *Alliance* San Antonio, I am writing to support the proposal in Docket No. USCBP-2007-00017. The proposed designation would add San Antonio International Airport to the list of designated airports at which private aircraft arriving in the continental United States from south of the United States must land for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processing.

San Antonio has over two hundred years of business and cultural ties with Mexico. Economic development between our city and multiple cities in Mexico continues to expand annually thanks to NAFTA. Finalizing the designation for CBP processing of general aviation aircraft in San Antonio will enable our city to advance to the next level of significant business, commerce and trade relations with Mexico.

Through the legislative process, a temporary designation was in place for six years, 2000 through 2006. During the six years that San Antonio enjoyed the temporary status, there were no CBP reported incidents nor did the designation result in any reported strain on CBP's resources at San Antonio International Airport. International traffic increased from 841 CBP private aircraft clearances in 2000 to 2,237 in 2006. This is an obvious indication of past restraints and new opportunities for commerce development between San Antonio and Mexico.

As a San Antonio business with focused efforts on economic development for our region, I strongly believe that permitting aircraft from south of the border to fly directly to San Antonio is very important to the further economic development of our region. Given the enormous importance of the designation to the San Antonio region and the absence of reasons not to go forward with the permanent designation, I urge finalization of the rule as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kyle Burns
President & CEO

